

Appl. No. 09/560,673
Amdt. dated 11/09/2005
Reply to Office Action of 06/09/2005

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed 06/09/2005. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

Election/Restrictions

5. The Examiner finds applicant's previously submitted traverse of the restriction requirement for claims 38-80 unpersuasive. Claims 38-80 were not considered. Applicant has cancelled claims 38-80 and reserves the right to present these claims in a divisional application.

Claim Objections

7. The Examiner objects to certain informalities in claims 1 and 32. Claim has been amended as requested. Claim 32 has been cancelled and the elements of claim 32 have been added to claim 29 as discussed below. The requested amendment to claim 32 has been included in the amendment of claim 29.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

9. The Examiner rejects claims 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DeLong (6,141,344). Applicant has amended claim 29 to include the elements of claim 32 which the Examiner indicated as including allowable subject matter. Regarding claims 30 and 31, applicant relies on the patentability of the claim from which these claims depend to traverse the rejection without prejudice to any further basis for patentability of these claims based on the additional elements recited.

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Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DeLong.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

11. The Examiner rejects claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeLong. Regarding claim 36, applicant relies on the patentability of the claims from which this claim depends to traverse the rejection without prejudice to any further basis for patentability of this claim based on the additional elements recited.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeLong.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1, 2, and 4-24.

13. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The Examiner objects to claims 32-35 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicates that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended independent claim 29 to include all of the limitations of dependent claim 32 and any intervening dependent claims and cancelled claim 32. Claim 33 is amended to depend from claim 29 rather than cancelled claim 32. Applicant respectfully requests that independent claim 29 and all claims that depend therefrom be allowed.

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New Claims

Applicant presents new claims 81-87 directed to a network switch. The claims are in a means plus function form. The means provide the same functions as provided by the method claims 29-36 and applicant respectfully submits that new claims 81-87 are allowable for the same reasons as claims 29-36 which the Examiner has indicated are allowable.

Conclusion

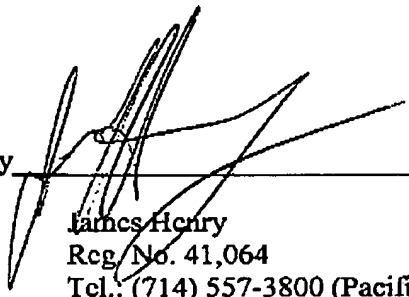
Applicant reserves all rights with respect to the applicability of the doctrine of equivalents. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 11/09/2005

By



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